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Fournier, Benoît

From: Natalie Wright <Communications@cacp.ca>
Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2022 9:05 PM
To: Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca; ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca
Cc: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca; Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca; brenda.lucki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; Thomas.Carrique@opp.ca; bells@ottawapolice.ca; Bryan Larkin
Subject: Policing and the Emergencies Act, Emergency Measures Regulations, and Emergency Economic Measures Order
Attachments: CACP Letter to Ministers Blair and Mendicino - 2022-02-19.pdf

Categories: Benoît, Info, VIP

Good evening Minister Blair and Minister Mendicino,

Attached, please find a letter from the President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), Chief Bryan Larkin, extending support for the *Emergencies Act, Emergency Measures Regulations* and *Emergency Economic Measures Order* as police services work together towards restoring the rule of law as they respond to demonstrations, protests, occupations, and acts of civil disobedience across the country.

Best regards,

Natalie Wright
Communications Advisor | Conseillère en communications
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police | Association canadienne des chefs de police
300, promenade Terry Fox Drive, Suite/bureau 100
Kanata, ON K2K 0E3
T: 613.838.8807
E/C: communications@cacp.ca
W: cacp.ca

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

February 19, 2022

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Emergency Preparedness
Public Safety Canada
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8
Email: bill.blair@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
Public Safety Canada
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8
Email: ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca

Dear Minister Blair and Minister Mendicino:

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), I am writing to extend our support for the *Emergencies Act, Emergency Measures Regulations* and *Emergency Economic Measures Order*.

Over the last three weeks, police services across the country have been responding to unprecedented demonstrations, protests, occupations, and acts of civil disobedience. Canadian and provincial legislation provides significant authorities and powers to police services to maintain the rule of law, although the national coordination of the Freedom Convoy 2022 has presented unique challenges.

The CACP supports the fundamental objectives of the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* that is intended to regulate and prohibit illegal public assemblies that lead to the breach of peace, and to restrict the funding of such illegal assemblies. The Act also supplements existing law enforcement tools and addresses unintended gaps in legislative authorities at the federal and provincial levels required during a state of emergency, including allowing for nation-wide coordination of police resources to enforce provincial and municipal legislation.

The *Emergency Measures Regulations* also enhance the ability for police to manage these illegal assemblies through the protection of minors, prohibiting foreign nationals from entering Canada to participate, limit travel, as well as limit property and assets to support these illegal assemblies. Furthermore, the Regulations allow for directing individuals and/or companies to assist police in providing essential goods and services while protecting critical infrastructure across our country.

The *Emergency Economic Measures Order* is critical to assisting law enforcement in addressing the mass national and international organization of the Freedom Convoy 2022. The prohibition of financial transactions to support unlawful assemblies is critical to bringing a peaceful termination of these assemblies, as well as serving as a deterrent for other pop-up illegal assemblies.

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Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are hallmarks of our Canadian democracy, and ones that police leaders fundamentally support. As well, our front-line members manage the delicate balancing act while ensuring public and community safety for all citizens. What we are currently experiencing across our nation, and in particular in the city of Ottawa, has crossed the threshold. The ongoing occupation of our nation's capital is affecting the lawful enjoyment and quality of life of the citizens of Ottawa.

The *Emergencies Act* ensures that the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* cannot be limited and/or abridged, even during the national emergency, while police independence and discretion remain independent.

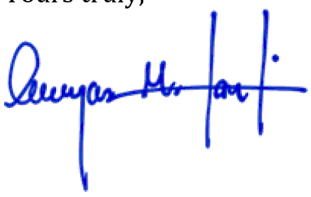
The CACP recognizes that the actions of our police services are, and will be, subjected to various levels of government review. We support and look forward to participating in these reviews as we look towards the future of continued police transformation while ensuring a safe Canada.

We would like to express our appreciation for your leadership in advancing progressive legislation to ensure that our front-line police officers have the ability and legislative authority to manage unique, unprecedented, and challenging public assemblies.

Police leaders are united across the country and are working in partnership, sharing resources and equipment. We remain committed to supporting our members on the front line and are grateful for their unwavering community leadership. We also remain committed to resolving the various assemblies, demonstrations, and occupations across the country peacefully while ensuring the rule of law. We are grateful for the selflessness of all police members across Canada as we work as one – united to ensure safety in all communities across our nation. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the exemplary leadership of Chief Bell, Commissioner Carrique and Commissioner Lucki – we are indebted for their national leadership.

Again, thank you for advancing the introduction of the *Emergencies Act*. We extend our support as we work towards restoring the rule of law across our great nation.

Yours truly,



Chief Bryan M. Larkin
President – CACP

cc. The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Candice Bergen, Interim Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police
Interim Chief Steve Bell, Ottawa Police Service

300 Terry Fox Drive, Suite 100 / 300 promenade Terry Fox, bureau 100, Ottawa, Ontario K2K 0E3
Tel : (613) 595-1101 ● Fax/Télécopieur: (613) 383-0372 ● Email/Courriel : cacp@cacp.ca